

UNCLASSIFIED
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Page: 1

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PAGE 01 BUENOS 09282 071921Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 SCS-06 CA-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00
INRE-00 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03 PRS-01 CIAE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 /060 W
-----082633 071930Z /53

O 071745Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3585

[REDACTED] BUENOS AIRES 9282

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS SHUM, AR
SUBJECT AMBASSADOR DISCUSSES HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES WITH HARGUINDEGUY

1. DURING PAST SEVERAL DAYS AMBASSADOR HAS
MADE COURTESY CALLS UPON SEVERAL CABINET
MINISTERS AND RAISED ISSUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS
IN ARGENTINA, BUT IT WAS WITH MINISTER OF
INTERIOR HARGUINDEGUY ON DECEMBER 5 THAT WE
FELL WE CAME CLOSEST TO STRIKING PAY DIRT:

A. [REDACTED] PROCESSING RIGHT OF
OPTION CERTIFICATES. HARGUINDEGUY ASSURED
AMBASSADOR THAT HE WOULD ARRANGE PERMISSION
IN VERY SHORT ORDER FOR A MEMBER OF THE
EMBASSY CONSULAR STAFF TO INTERVIEW [REDACTED]
FOR PROCESSING HIS IMMIGRANT VISA, AND
THAT THE REQUIRED MEDICAL EXAMINATION FOR
IMMIGRATION INTO THE US COULD ALSO BE GIVEN.
HARGUINDEGUY PROMISED CONSULAR ACCESS TO ANY FUTURE
"RIGHT OF OPTION" PETITIONER WITH WHOM IT IS NECESSARY
THAT AN EMBASSY CONSULAR OFFICER SPEAK IN ORDER TO
PROVIDE CERTIFICATION OF OUR WILLINGNESS TO ISSUE A
VISA. THIS IS IN ORDER THAT "RIGHT OF OPTION"
PROCEDURES REQUIRED OF PETITIONERS CAN BE COMPLETED.
HARGUINDEGUY TOLD US THAT HE HAD ALREADY GIVEN THIS

PAGE 02 BUENOS 09282 071921Z

ASSURANCE PERSONALLY TO THE ISRAELI AMBASSADOR, WHO IT
SEEMS ALSO IS CONCERNED WITH "RIGHT OF OPTION" PROCESSING.

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 1

UNCLASSIFIED

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ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/PS
Margaret P. Grafeld, Director
() Release () Excise () Deny
Exemption(s): B3 NA
Declassify: () In Part () In Full
() Classify as () Extend as () Downgrade to
Date Declassify on Reason

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: [REDACTED]
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Page: 2

Channel: n/a

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(NOTE: ON THE FOLLOWING DAY AUTHORITIES OF THE PRISON WHERE [REDACTED] IS HELD SET 1600 DECEMBER 7 FOR THE VISIT OF A US CONSULAR OFFICER, ALONG WITH DOCTOR OF EMBASSY'S CHOOSING. SEPTTEL REPORTED.)

B. CHRISTMAS AMNESTY. HARGUINDEGUY TOLD AMBASSADOR HE IS REVIEWING NOW A LIST OF SOME 675 PERSONS UNDER CONSIDERATION FOR SOME KIND OF AMNESTY OR AMELIORATION AT CHRISTMAS TIME. HARGUINDEGUY SAID THAT THE INTENTION TO RELEASE--OR EXPEL FROM THE COUNTRY IN THE CASE OF FOREIGNERS--PERSONS UNDER THE "PODER EJECUTIVO NACIONAL" IS SIMPLY A SPEEDING UP OF WHAT ALL ALONG HAS BEEN THE INTENTION OF THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT: TO CUT AS FAR AS POSSIBLE THE NUMBERS OF PERSONS HELD UNDER THE PEN. HARGUINDEGUY SAID THAT THE NUMBER OF PEN PRISONERS NOW STANDS AT 3,667, WHEREAS THE NUMBER JUST A FEW WEEKS EARLIER WAS ABOUT 4,500. HARGUINDEGUY MENTIONED THAT THERE ARE 190 FOREIGN NATIONALS HELD UNDER PEN. ONE PROBLEM THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT FACES, HE SAID, IS FINDING A COUNTRY TO WHICH SOME OF THES PEOPLE CAN BE EXPELLED. HE SAID FOR EXAMPLE THAT SOME CHILEANS WOULD NOT BE ACCEPTED BY BY THEIR GOVERNMENT. HARGUINDEGUY MENTIONED THAT OF THE TOTAL PEN NUMBER SEVEN ARE ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIESTS.

C. TIMERMAN CASE. HARGUINDEGUY SPOKE OF THE TIMERMAN CASE AS ONE WHO BELIEVES A SOLUTION CAN AND SHOULD BE WORKED OUT--BUT HE DID NOT SPEAK IN ANY TIME FRAME. THE AMBASSADOR DESCRIBED AT SOME LENGTH FOR HARGUINDEGUY THE ENORMOUS SYMBOLIC VALUE THE TIMERMAN CASE HAS COME TO HAVE IN THE US.

2. HARGUINDEGUY IS A TOUGH GENERAL WHO DURING AMBASSADOR'S [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

PAGE 03 BUENOS 09282 071921Z

CALL MENTIONED ALMOST CASUALLY AN ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT AGAINST HIM UNCOVERED ONLY THE WEEK BEFORE. (A PARKED CAR LOADED WITH DYNAMITE HAD BEEN DISCOVERED ALONG ONE OF THE ROUTES HARGUINDEGUY USES TO ARRIVED AT HIS OFFICE.) TO THE AMBASSADOR'S FRANK TALK ABOUT THE KIND OF INFORMATION THAT CIRCULATES ABROAD ABOUT ARGENTINA, HOWEVER, HARGUINDEGUY SHOWED A LIVELY APPRECIATION AND INDICATED A WILLINGNESS TO GET ON WITH THE TASK OF IMPROVING THINGS. CASTRO

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 2

UNCLASSIFIED